

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
PANAMA BUREAU
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7 October 1985
MPA-5039

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Panama Bureau -- September 1985

I. GENERAL

To the extent effort can be quantified, September 1985 appears to have been one of the most active months at Panama Bureau, with several overnight watches. ROSET wordage hit an all-time high of well over 100,000 words for the month, with Mexican events prominent. The most significant ROSET coverage was that which we provided on the Mexican earthquakes and their aftermath. Coincidentally we were monitoring the Mexican 113.5W Morelos 1 satellite on 19 September when the first major shock hit. We were able to view and record the movement of objects within the studio and the evident alarm of the newscasters. Although the station quickly went off the air, we were able to find another channel carrying shots of the devastated city. Before the day was out SOUTHCOM officers viewed and recorded some of the bureau's live coverage of the disaster. The material was used to brief General Galvin, the SOUTHCOM CINC, later that night in anticipation of a request for disaster relief. On the 19th the bureau extended its operations overnight to cover followup reports on the earthquake and to monitor the situation on Nicaragua's Pacific coastline, where a "gigantic" tidal wave was reportedly on its way.

On 1 September we monitored Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid's State of the Nation speech. The full and prompt reporting of this annual speech (amounting to over 30,000 words) contrasts sharply with the coverage of previous, pre-ROSET years when only sketchy reports were available from poor to unmonitorable Mexico City shortwave or from press agency reports, and the text only from the Mexican press on a much-delayed basis.

Other noteworthy ROSET television coverage over the past four weeks included the 16 September parade and ceremonies marking the 175th anniversary of Mexico's independence from Spain; the 12 September live launch of the Ariane rocket from French Guiana and the failed deployment of its two onboard satellites; and the 11 and 12 September two-part interview with Chilean President Pinochet from Colombian television.

Due to all of the above, a record number of eight video selection lists were filed during the month, twice the total output for 1984. Consumers quickly requested two of these eight selections: The State Department was interested in viewing the interview with Pinochet, and the BBC was interested in the 2 and 1/2 hour military parade honoring Mexican independence.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

Within Panama, the political atmosphere began to heat up but not to the point of hindering bureau operations. The macabre murder of legendary guerrilla fighter Hugo Spadafora -- whose decapitated body was found on the Costa Rican border on 16 September -- shocked the nation and prompted widespread indignation and demands for punishment of the responsible parties. Differences within the administration on how to investigate the crime and bring its perpetrators to justice are seen as the basis for the ouster of President Nicolas Ardito Barletta on 27 September, a few hours after he returned to the country following a 26 September speech at the UN General Assembly meeting in New York. This incident prompted an overnight watch as the legislative assembly was called to a special session late that evening, and the first vice president, Eric Arturo Delvalle, was sworn into office at 4 a.m. on 28 September.

On 10 September the eldest daughter of Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte was kidnapped, by persons and for purposes that are still not clear. The Salvadoran Government is reportedly negotiating with the kidnappers in utmost secrecy, and, although the kidnapping has been attributed to the 3-month old "Pedro Pablo Castillo Front," the FMLN has not yet claimed responsibility for the action. Due to intense interest in this little-known group, the bureau prepared a listing of all references to the Front by Salvadoran clandestine media for the past 4 months. Although the Salvadoran Government has banned all media coverage of the incident so as not to hinder the negotiations, statements by FMLN and FDR spokesmen and by government officials have provided a generous amount of copy.

Two days prior to their mutual Independence Day, 15 September, yet another confusing border incident between Honduras and Nicaragua brought the two countries closer than ever to the brink of war. As usual, the two countries accused each other of provoking the incident in which one Honduran soldier was killed and eight wounded. Due to the seriousness of the situation, the bureau kept an overnight watch on Honduran and Nicaraguan transmitters on 13 September.

In Cuba, President Fidel Castro continued his efforts to direct Latin American thinking on the foreign debt problem by hosting a "Youth and Student Dialogue on the Latin American-Caribbean Foreign Debt." Castro's 14 September closing speech at the event ran 33 takes.

The meeting of the ministers of the nonaligned movement in Luanda, Angola, from 4 to 8 September brought a flood of traffic-- including several priority items -- from Havana's PRENSA LATINA, which has a permanent correspondent in this African capital.

B. Communications

Bureau Mode V communications experienced serious disruptions throughout September owing to problems at the Panama Automated Relay (PAR). Beginning on 12 September and extending well into October, the bureau's circuit was operational only sporadically and we relied heavily on our TELEX altroute. During the month, the bureau used the TELEX a total of 37 hours to file priority and immediate traffic.

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Work on the bureau's Mode I "Mux" circuit upgrade was in abeyance awaiting a testing team to arrive from Fort Richie, Maryland, in mid-October.

C. Lateral Services

Don Hamilton, the PAO for the American Embassy in San Salvador, asked us on 20 September to provide for him any items on the Pedro Pablo Castillo Front we might have monitored prior to the abduction of President Duarte's daughter on the 10th, and remarks made since 1 September by Venceremos, Farabundo Marti, or guerrilla sources on unification. In thanking us in advance, he stated that he believes "FBIS is not appreciated enough" for the work that it does. We were able to wirefile to him the following day a DAILY REPORT page listing of several responsive items.

At the bureau's suggestion, the Political Section of the embassy in Panama asked for drop copies of Soviet comment on and reaction to a conference in Panama of U.S. chiefs of mission accredited to Latin American countries.

D. Technical

During the month the bureau procured locally office and household furniture at a total price of \$14,099.50. Included was furniture for the Ft. Clayton house occupied by newly arrived staff editor [] and his family. With the eventual arrival of the [] furniture (now with the troubled Fidelity Storage in the Washington area), the locally procured furniture will be moved to the TDY house in a general upgrading of furnishings there.

The bureau also procured locally one Sony TV, Model KV1357R, Serial No. 815541. Unit Price: \$322.97; and two American hand dryers (for use in bureau bathrooms) Model CF-10, Serial Nos: C-26313, and C-26356. Unit Price: \$335.75.

The following accountable property was received:

Two shotguns, Winchester Model 1200 with No. 4 Buckshot. (Slide action, 12 gauge) Serial Nos: 260487 and 219502.

The following property was transferred to Headquarters:

Two Frederick Electronic Display Units Model 1251, Serial Nos: FE-11310 and FE-3017.

The following prproperty was transferred with Headquarters' concurrence to the local Army Disposal Office:

1. Two Suppressors, Interference, Pioneer Electronic Research, Model QRL-2B, Serial Nos: 114 and 126 (5915-H00-6737). Unit Price: \$350.00.

2. One Keyboard Typing Punch, TTY Corp., VSL-521 (portable). Unit Price: \$1,196.00 (5815-H99-3854).

3. One Recorder /Reproducer Crown, Model SS-702 Serial No. T8141, Amplifier SSMX M-302 (5835-W10-0457). Unit Price: \$1,050.00.

4. One Recorder/Reproducer, Crown Model C-702, Type T, Recorder Serial No R7628 and Amplifier Serial No. RPA-CIA 3549 (5835-H00-9056) Unit Price \$715.00.

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5. Three Frederick Demodulators, Model 1203, Serial Nos: FE-7012, FE-3023, and FE-3029, (5820-W13-7556). Unit Price \$2,875.00.
6. Two Walkie-Talkies (Transciever), Tokay, Model TC-5065, Serial Nos: 766535 and 766538, Unit Price \$250.00.
7. One Refrigerator, Whirlpool, Model EAT 17SKART, Serial No E44513112. Unit Price \$331.00.
8. One Receiver, Single Frequency, AM, MCMartin, Model AMR-I, Serial No. 255485 (5820-W00-000). Unit Price \$100.00.
9. Typewriters, Electric, IMB Model C, Serial Nos. 1721237 and 2783830 (7430-H99-0691). Unit Price \$675.00.
10. Typewriter, Nonelectric, Underwood, Model Touchmaster, Serial No. 13-9731412 (7430-254-4312). Unit Price \$167.00.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

STAT Spanish Monitor [] received a Quality Step
 STAT Increase from FBN-9/3 to FBN-9/4 effective 29 September.
 Administrative Assistant [] attended the Foreign
 National Orientation Program in Washington, D. C. 9-13 September.

B. Building and Grounds

STAT Contractor [] completed the screened porches for
 STAT the FBIS houses on Ft. Clayton.
 Contractor [] started construction work on the staff
 secretary's booth in the bureau library and on the window between the
 editorial and communication rooms.
 We held the first of two planned fire drills, the suggestion of
 the Regional Security Officer, on 12 September. The next will be in
 November.

IV. VISITS

STAT [] members of th Inspector General's
 team examining FBIS operations worldwide, visited the bureau 21-28
 September. They met with a wide range of consumers of the bureau product
 and interviewed staff and some non-staff personnel.

STAT [] en route to Bangkok PCS, visited the
 bureau on 23 and 24 September. The main purpose of the visit was
 familiarization with ROSET operations.

STAT Paraguay monitor [] returning to Paraguay from the
 Foreign National Orientation Program, was also briefed on ROSET, on 29
 September.

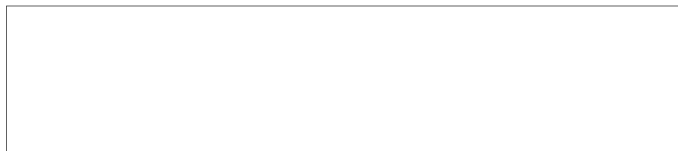
The bureau's contact in Honduras for the remote operation, PAO Mike
 O'Brien, visited the bureau on 16 September for a briefing. He was
 accompanied by Col. Neil Buttimer, SOUTHCOM's new PAO, and Lt. Col. Frank
 Feild, the SOUTHCOM deputy PAO.

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While there has been no improvement in bureau communications, this is not due to the lack of effort to educate those responsible. On 17 September, we briefed civilians Herman Tucker and Kenneth Berry and Army Specialist Kathie Whitfield on bureau communications, current and future. The three, from Ft. Detrick ASC, were in Panama to see PAR, TechControl, and all connected tributaries. On the 26th, Lt. Gary Kirkman and SFC Bruce Horowitz from PAR were at the bureau to hear our litany of complaints and to make the usual promises for improvements.

Other visitors to the bureau included 11 members of a linguist team from the Utah National Guard, on TDY in Panama; and two officers and an enlisted man from Galeta Island Facility.

STAT



Chief, Panama Bureau

Attachment:
Production Report

Panama Bureau Production Report for September 1985

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	567180
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	32490
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1275

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (minutes or issues per week)	10405.00 min.	42570.00 min.	208.00 issues

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:
(publishable words per month)

ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires REUTER in
Spanish

4290

CLANDESTINES

Clandestine Radio Farabundo Marti in
Spanish to El Salvador

8080

Clandestine Radio Venceremos in
Spanish to El Salvador

15450

COLOMBIA

Bogota Cadena Radial Super in
Spanish

520

Bogota Domestic Service in
Spanish

0

Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in
Spanish

1490

Bogota Television Service in
Spanish

17600

Bogota REUTER in
English

100

Bogota REUTER in
Spanish

200

Bogota EL SIGLO in
Spanish

6180

Bogota EL TIEMPO in
Spanish

10280

COSTA RICA

San Jose Radio Impacto in
Spanish

2610

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish	10610		
San Jose PRENSA LATINA in Spanish		390	
San Jose LA NACION in Spanish			4570
San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish			1960
San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish			5910
San Jose LIBERTAD REVOLUCIONARIA in Spanish			0
San Jose LIBERTAD in Spanish			1040
San Jose RUMBO CENTROAMERICANO in Spanish			0
CUBA			
Havana International Service in Quechua	980		
Havana International Service in Spanish	68870		
Havana Television Service in Spanish	3030		
Havana EFE in Spanish		250	
Havana PRENSA LATINA in English		3660	
Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish		16760	
ECUADOR			
Quito Domestic Service in Spanish	2690		
Quito Radio Quito in Spanish	830		
Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish	1980		
Quito REUTER in Spanish		440	
EL SALVADOR			
San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish	5640		
San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish	9560		
San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish	2960		

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish	7190		
San Salvador Television Educativa in Spanish	1150		
San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish			210
San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish			3250
San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish			1790
San Salvador EL TIEMPO in Spanish			0
San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish			5380
San Salvador PROCESO in Spanish			0
San Salvador THE NEWS GAZETTE in English			0
FRANCE			
Paris AFP in English		1520	
Paris AFP in Spanish		21660	
GERMANY			
Hamburg DPA in Spanish		7450	
GUATEMALA			
Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish	8660		
Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish	3690		
Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish	190		
Guatemala City Radio Television Guatemala in Spanish	3750		
Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish			380
Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish			1970
HONDURAS			
Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish	8390		

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish	8290		
Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish	1080		
Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish	1130		
Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish	730		
San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish			890
San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish			4670
Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish			0
Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish			1530
MEXICO			
Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish	6510		
Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish	28690		
Mexico City ENFOPRENSA in Spanish		460	
Mexico City REUTER in English		7780	
Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish			0
Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish			1200
Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish			1350
Mexico City THE NEWS in English			590
Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish			1490
NICARAGUA			
Managua International Service in Spanish	1330		
Managua Domestic Service in Spanish	27990		
Managua Radio Deportes in Spanish	160		
Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish	4130		
Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish	27280		

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in			
Spanish	1240		
Managua ANN in			
Spanish		13190	
Managua ANN in			
English		4480	
Managua PRENSA LATINA in			
Spanish		2790	
Managua BARRICADA in			
Spanish			10130
Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in			
Spanish			5690
Managua LA PRENSA in			
Spanish			2310
 PANAMA			
Panama City Cadena Exitosa in			
Spanish	1450		
Panama City Circuito RPC Television in			
Spanish	8970		
Panama City Domestic Service in			
Spanish	8510		
Panama City PANAVISION Television in			
Spanish	3350		
Panama City Radio Cadena Millonaria in			
Spanish	290		
Panama City Radio Continente in			
Spanish	290		
Panama City Televisora Nacional in			
Spanish	3260		
Panama City ACAN in			
Spanish		22240	
Panama City CRITICA in			
Spanish			1660
Panama City DIALOGO SOCIAL in			
Spanish			0
Panama City EL SIGLO in			
Spanish			1930
Panama City EXTRA in			
Spanish			2090
Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in			
Spanish			5980
Panama City LA PRENSA in			
Spanish			9870
Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in			
Spanish			1540

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish			1920
Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish			810
Panama City QUIUBO GRAFICO in Spanish			520
Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English			310
Panama City THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC in English			0
SPAIN			
Madrid EFE in Spanish		26630	
Madrid PRENSA LATINA in Spanish		190	
USSR			
Moscow TASS in Spanish		380	
VENEZUELA			
Caracas Television Service in Spanish	6000		
Caracas REUTER in English		1650	
Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish			400
Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish			4270

PANAMA BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 1985 -- ANNEX

TOTALS FROM ROSET SOURCES:

ARGENTINA	
Buenos Aires REUTER in	
Spanish	440
COLOMBIA	
Bogota Television Service in	
Spanish	17,600
Bogota REUTER in	
English	100
Bogota REUTER in	
Spanish	200
COSTA RICA	
San Jose PRENSA LATINA in	
Spanish	390
CUBA	
Havana PRENSA LATINA in	
English	3,660
Havana PRENSA LATINA in	
Spanish	16,760
Havana EFE in	
Spanish	250
ECUADOR	
Quito REUTER in	
Spanish	440
MEXICO	
Mexico City XEW Television Network in	
Spanish	6,510
Mexico City XHDF Television Network in	
Spanish	28,690
Mexico City REUTER in	
English	7,780
Mexico City ENFOPRENSA in	
Spanish	460
NICARAGUA	
Managua ANN in	
English	4,480
Managua ANN in	
Spanish	13,190
Managua PRENSA LATINA in	
Spanish	2,790

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SPAIN	
Madrid EFE in Spanish	4,140
Madrid PRENSA LATINA in Spanish	190
USSR	
Moscow TASS in Spanish	380
VENEZUELA	
Caracas Television Service in Spanish	6,000
Caracas REUTER in English	1,650
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TOTAL FOR SEPTEMBER 1985	116,100